

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1816

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN IS LE XF

SUBJ: AFTERMATH OF MAALOT

FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER FROM AMB SCALI

1. LAST NIGHT I HAD SYG CIRCULATE YOUR STATEMENT ON MAALOT, MY OWN STATEMENT, AND US SENATE'S (HUMPHREY) RESOLUTION CONDEMNING "THIS AND ALL ACTS OF TERRORISM". US DOMESTIC PRESSURE CLEARLY BUILDING UP FOR SOME KIND ACTION PERHAPS IN UNSC.

2. I REALIZE SC ACTION WOULD HAVE LITTLE APPEAL TO ISRAELIS. EVEN SO, I THINK I SHOULD OUTLINE POSSIBLE SCENARIO THAT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE IN SC SO THAT YOU MAY CONSIDER WHETHER WE CAN DO ANYTHING HERE TO HELP RETRIEVE SITUATION AND IMPROVE CLIMATE FOR YOUR PEACE EFFORTS.

3. ISRAELI TRANS-BORDER MILITARY AIR RETALIATION AGAINST LEBANON WILL OF COURSE STIMULATE USUAL STRONG INCLINATION TO CONDEMN ISRAEL FOR "STATE ACTION" RETALIATION MORE STRONGLY THAN ARAB STATES FOR HARBORING TERRORISTS. MY STAFF ESTIMATES LEBANESE MAY COME IN WITH REQUEST FOR EMERGENCY MEETING OF SC WITHIN NEXT TWO OR THREE HOURS.

4. YOU MIGHT WELL PREFER THAT WE OURSELVES TAKE INITIATIVE
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HERE IN SC, PRE-EMPTING OTHERS. WE MIGHT ASK FOR SC SESSION

FOR A PURPOSE SUCH AS "TO URGENTLY CONSIDER THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE TRAGEDY AT MAALOT AND ITS SEQUELS TO THE SEARCH FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST." WE WOULD NEED SIMULTANEOUSLY TO BEGIN SHOWING KEY MEMBERS OF SC A DRAFT RESOLUTION (OR DRAFT STATEMENT TO BE MADE BY SC PRES AS REFLECTION OF SC VIEWS). (KENYA IS PRESIDENT OF SC.) WE WOULD CONSULT WITH ALLIES RE SALEABILITY OF TEXT WHICH COULD INCLUDE FOLLOWING TWO POINTS:

A) RECORDS ITS SHOCK AND GRIEF OVER THE TRAGIC EVENTS WHICH BEGAN AT MAALOT ON MAY 15;

B) CALLS UPON ALL IN THE AREA (NOT JUST ALL PARTIES) TO REFRAIN FROM FURTHER ACTIONS THAT WOULD DETRACT FROM THE PROSPECT FOR LASTING PEACE.

5. I OFFER THE ABOVE OBSERVATIONS IN A SPIRIT PERHAPS ASSISTING FROM THIS END TO HELP YOU CONTINUE YOUR SEARCH. IF YOU WANT ME TO EXPLORE THIS IDEA FURTHER HERE, I NEED URGENT INSTRUCTIONS DEFINING JUST WHAT MY LATITUDE IS. IF WE ARE TO TRY SOMETHING ALONG THESE LINES, SPEED AND FLEXIBILITY ARE CRITICAL.
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